

that the Fund had received the Betty bequest of £4,592, as well as £2,000 from Sir Theodore Martin, in memory of the late Lady Martin, which would form the Helen Faucit Fund.

The 31st annual dinner of the French Hospital and Dispensary, took place last Saturday at the Hotel Cecil. M. Paul Cambon, the French Ambassador, was in the chair, and there was a distinguished and cosmopolitan attendance, including the Lord Mayor of London, the Sheriffs, the Italian Ambassador, the Swiss Minister, the Bolivian Minister, the Chargé d' Affaires of Uruguay, Sir William MacCormac, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, and many others. During the evening, subscriptions and donations were announced amounting to £3,200.

The announcement made by a Vienna paper some weeks ago that the late Baroness Hirsch had bequeathed nearly £20,000,000 to various charitable institutions proves to be a huge exaggeration, although the actual amount bequeathed is noteworthy enough.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Mail* wired immediately afterwards, it may be recollected, that the details given were purely conjectural and unauthorised.

The *Jewish Chronicle*, quoting textually from the will, now states that the total amount left by the late baroness to charities is 46,750,000 francs, equivalent to £1,870,000, divided among some twenty institutions.

The largest individual bequest is £400,000 to the Jewish Colonisation Association of London. The income of this will, however, be paid to the Israelite Alliance in Paris.

A sum of £240,000 is bequeathed to the Baron de Hirsch fund in New York, £200,000 to the Jewish Benevolent Committee of Paris, and £120,000 to the loan fund of the London Jewish Board of Guardians.

By order of the Tzar, a further sum of 1,500,000 roubles has lately been assigned to the Treasury of the Red Cross Society to provide food and medical aid for the distressed population in seven Eastern Provinces of Russia affected by the famine.

The Russian Red Cross Society is battling manfully with the terrible results of famine in Kazan and Simbirsk.

The mortality among these people is great, and many deaths from starvation are reported.

The state of affairs is not much better elsewhere. From Kazan the doctors report that the typhus there raging is of the most virulent type, nearly all the cases ending fatally.

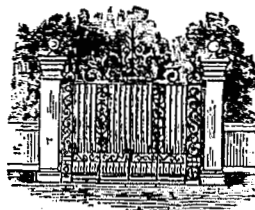
The scurvy is said to resemble the plague in some of its manifestations; the greatest sufferers are women, especially those with yet unweaned children.

In the Government of Simbirsk fully half the population will, it is said, be altogether unfit for the hard work of ploughing the fields (besides, their cattle and horses are all gone), and this, of course, implies famine again next year.

The Colonial Secretary has received a cablegram from Hong Kong, stating that during last week there were sixty-four cases of plague and fifty-two deaths from it in that colony. The plague has been increasing in extent during the past three weeks.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



AN interesting meeting was held last week, by invitation of Mrs. Charles Hancock, at 125, Queen's Gate, when the Countess of Aberdeen, the President of the International Council of Women, and other officers of the Council, explained the objects of the coming Congress. Mrs.

Charles Hancock presided.

Lady Aberdeen spoke of the necessity for organization in women's work, and the need for various organizations to get into touch with one another. Two International Congresses had been held with this end in view, one at Washington years ago, the other at Chicago in 1893. Those who were privileged to be at Chicago would never forget the inspiration of the meeting. Many of those, then present, undertook when they returned to their own countries to try to form National Councils, and they were coming to this Congress to give an account of their pledge.

This Congress differed from the others in being planned and organized. Lady Aberdeen spoke of the necessity of impressing upon women the need of a high ideal in all matters connected with their public and professional life. She concluded by asking for hospitality for the 300 or 400 delegates who were coming to the Congress from other countries. Much had been offered, but more was wanted.

Sir W. Wedderburn, M.P., described the Congress as an effort to consolidate the influence of women, and to guide that influence in the best possible direction. He said that he was a disciple of John Stuart Mill in thinking that the unfair position of women was the greatest obstacle to the progress of the human race.

Sir Richard Temple, who evidently does not share the horror of Mr. Balfour and Mr. Asquith with regard to the invasion of the House of Commons by women, said that he would like to see women in Parliament. Mrs. Dora Montefiore amusingly described a new species of woman who was coming to the Congress, known as the "Anti"—a woman who did not believe in Woman's Suffrage; and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, as treasurer of the Congress Fund, pleaded for money. She said that money poured in for philanthropic objects, but it was difficult to obtain it for organisation, more especially for women's organisations. She estimated the cost of the Congress at £1,000. She was present at Chicago, and with a vivid recollection of the hospitality showered upon the delegates, she was anxious that the hospitality shown to the delegates now coming to this country should at least equal it. She further asked for enough money to enable the Committee to print the papers which would be read at the Congress and the discussions which would take place on them. Women with the expert knowledge obtained only by years of laborious work were coming

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